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Jury Selection Under Way in Bowers Trial

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) — Jury selection began today in the state murder trial of Sam H. Bowers Jr. of Laurel, former imperial wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

A special venire of 132 persons ordered drawn by Circuit Judge Stanton Hall was reduced to 40 in initial examination of prospective jurymen, and at late morning the prosecution and defense were still working to agree on a jury panel.

Bowers was accused of ordering a Jan. 10, 1966, firebomb attack on the home and store of Vernon Dahmer in the Kelly settlement near here. Dahmer had been active in voter registration work.

Two previous state trials for Bowers, one for murder and the other for arson, ended in hung juries A federal court trial on charges of conspiring to violate Dahmer's civil rights also ended in a mistrial.